

CLAIMS

1. A composition for a sanitary ware body for use in slip casting, comprising agglomerates of a raw material powder for said sanitary ware body and having a water content of 0 (zero) to 25% by weight, wherein

said powder has a 50% average particle diameter of 1 to 15 μm on a number basis.

2. The composition for a sanitary ware body according to claim 1, wherein said water content is 0 (zero) to 9% by weight.

3. The composition for a sanitary ware body according to claim 1, wherein said water content is 3 to 7% by weight.

4. The composition for a sanitary ware body according to claim 1, wherein said water content is 15 to 25% by weight.

5. The composition for a sanitary ware body according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the 50% average particle diameter of the agglomerates is 1 to 10 μm on a weight basis.

6. A process for producing a composition for a sanitary ware body for use in slip casting, said process comprising the steps of:

providing a raw material for a sanitary ware body;

adding water to the raw material for a sanitary ware body;

grinding the raw material for a sanitary ware body with water added thereto to prepare a slurry for slip casting; and

dehydrating and/or drying the slurry for slip

body.

7. The process according to claim 6, wherein, in adding said water, a soluble salt for modifying the viscosity of the slurry is further added to the raw material for a sanitary ware body.

8. The process according to claim 7, wherein said soluble salt is at least one salt selected from the group consisting of sodium silicate, sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, and a phosphoric ester.

9. The process according to any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein said drying is carried out by a spray dryer.

10. The process according to any one of claims 6 to 9, wherein said dehydration is carried out by a filter press.

11. The process according to any one of claims 6 to 10, wherein the viscosity of the slurry for slip casting is 200 to 1,000 mPa·s as measured with a Brookfield viscometer at a rotor rotating speed of 60 rpm.

12. A composition for a sanitary ware body, which is produced by the process according to any one of claims 6 to 11.

13. A process for producing a sanitary ware, comprising the steps of:

adding water to the composition for a sanitary ware body according to any one of claims 1 to 5 and 12 and stirring the mixture to regenerate the slurry;

pouring the slurry into a slip casting mold and allowing the slurry to cast on the mold;

taking the resultant green body out of the mold;

coating glaze onto the dried green body; and firing the glaze-coated green body.

14. The process according to claim 13, wherein, in adding said water, an additional raw material powder is further added for regulating the percentage shrinkage at the time of said firing or for regulating casting rate at the time of said slip casting.

15. The process according to claim 14, wherein said additional raw material powder is at least one material selected from the group consisting of feldspar, dolomite, and nepheline.

16. The process according to claim 14 or 15, wherein said additional raw material powder is at least one material selected from the group consisting of pottery stone, silica rock, and alumina.

17. The process according to any one of claims 14 to 16, wherein said additional raw material powder is at least one material selected from the group consisting of china clay, ball clay, and plastic clay.

18. The process according to any one of claims 14 to 17, wherein the amount of the additional raw material powder added is 0.01 to 10 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the composition for a sanitary ware body.

19. The process according to any one of claims 14 to 18, wherein, in adding said water, a soluble salt is further added for modifying the viscosity of the slurry.

20. The process according to claim 19, wherein said soluble salt is at least one salt selected from the group consisting of sodium silicate, sodium hydroxide,

sodium carbonate, and a phosphoric ester.

21. The process according to claim 19 or 20, wherein the amount of the soluble salt added is 0.001 to 0.2 part by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the composition for a sanitary ware body.

22. A sanitary ware produced by the process according to any one of claims 13 to 21.

23. Use of the composition for a sanitary ware body according to any one of claims 1 to 5 and 12, for the production of a sanitary ware.